

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, EAID, PK, US

SUBJECT: PAKISTANI ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAM

1. DEPARTMENT RECEIVED AIDE-MEMOIRE FROM PAKISTAN EMBASSY

JULY 9, TEXT OF WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: SUBJECT:-NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAMME IN PAKISTAN

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN HAS DEVELOPED AN EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT MECHANISM FOR THE CONTROL AND EVENTUAL ELIMINATION OF THE PRODUCTION AND MOVEMENT OF ILLICIT NARCOTICS WITHIN AND OUTSIDE ITS BORDERS. UNDER A BILATERAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND UNITED STATES SIGNED IN JANUARY 1974, PAKISTAN HAS UNDERTAKEN TO -

(A) REVIEW, IMPLEMENT AND CONSOLIDATE THE EXISTING ANTI-NARCOTIC LAWS AND TO BRING THEM IN LINE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND TREATIES;

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MARGARET P. GRAFELD DECLASSIFIED/RELEASED US DEPARTMENT OF STATE EO SYSTEMATIC REVIEW 04 MAY 2006

(B) IMPROVE THE ENFORCEMENT POTENTIAL OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES BY THE SETTING UP OF 25 FIELD INVESTIGATING UNITS IN THE INITIAL PHASE; AND

(C) ENFORCE CONTROLS OVER LICENSING OF POPPY CULTIVATION AND TO PREVENT LEAKAGES OF OPIUM GUM WITH A VIEW TO EVENTUAL ELIMINATION OF POPPY CULTIVATION.

(2) THE DANGEROUS DRUGS AND OPIUM ACTS WERE FIRST AMENDED IN MAY 1975 TO ENABLE ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO INVESTIGATE, SEARCH, ARREST, SEIZE AND INTERCEPT ILLICIT MOVEMENT OF NARCOTICS AND OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS. MORE RECENTLY, A NEW AND COMPREHENSIVE LAW HAS BEEN DRAFTED TO GRANT WIDE RANGE OF POWERS TO PAKISTAN NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD TO PROVIDE FOR STRINGENT PUNISHMENT TO DEFAULTERS AND STRICTER CONTROL FOR NARCOTICS CULTIVATION AND MOVEMENT. AS THESE LEGAL AMENDMENTS REQUIRE CONSULTATIONS AMONG FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS, THE PROCESS IS NATURALLY TIME-CONSUMING. HOWEVER, THE NEW LEGISLATION IS NOW ALMOST READY FOR PRESENTATION TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

(3) SINCE THE SETTING UP OF PAKISTAN NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD IN 1973, THERE HAS BEEN A REMARKABLE IMPROVEMENT IN ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES. THE NUMBER OF SEIZURES OF NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS HAS INCREASED CONSIDERABLY. EVEN THE TRIBAL AREAS OF PAKISTAN, WHICH HAVE TRADITIONALLY PROVIDED REFUGE TO SMUGGLERS AND DRUG TRAFFICKERS, HAVE BEEN SYSTEMATICALLY RAIDED UNDER THE EXPRESS DIRECTIONS OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF PAKISTAN. THESE OPERATIONS HAVE SUCCEEDED IN SMASHING TWO MORPHINE FACTORIES AND HAVE ALSO RESULTED IN THE SEIZURE OF LARGE QUANTITIES OF MORPHONE POWDER AND TABLETS.

(4) THE FIELD INVESTIGATING UNITS ARE PROGRESSIVELY BEING MANNED BY TRAINED PERSONNEL. TWELVE SUCH UNITS HAVE ALREADY BEEN SET UP BY THE PAKISTAN NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD. IN ADDITION, TEN UNITS HAVE BEEN RAISED FROM THE EXISTING MANPOWER OF OTHER ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES SUCH AS CUSTOMS, EXCISE AND TAXATION AND COAST GUARDS. IT IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXPECTED THAT THESE UNITS WOULD ALSO BE TAKEN OVER BY THE PAKISTAN NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD SOON AND BY SETTING UP OF THREE ADDITIONAL UNITS, THE TARGET OF TWENTY FIVE UNITS WOULD BE ACHIEVED. TRANSPORT AND EQUIPMENT RECEIVED FROM THE UNITED STATES HAS NOW BEEN PLACED AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE FIELD INVESTIGATION UNITS. AS THE WIRELESS EQUIPMENT WAS INITIALLY DEFECTIVE, SOME DELAYS WERE EXPERIENCED IN COMMISSIONING AND PLACING IT AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE UNITS.

(5) THERE HAS ALSO BEEN A STEADY IMPROVEMENT IN THE LICENSING AND CONTROL OF POPPY CULTIVATION. DURING THE CROP YEAR 1975-76, THE AREA UNDER LICENSED CULTIVATION WAS REDUCED FROM 3125 ACRES TO 2700 ACRES. THERE IS A CLOSE

COORDINATION BETWEEN THE PAKISTAN NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD AND THE EXCISE DEPARTMENT OF THE NORTH WESTERN FRONTIER GOVERNMENT. CROP MEASUREMENT, CLASSIFICATION, WEIGHT AND PURCHASE OF OPIUM BY THE GOVERNMENT ARE CONSTANTLY BEING REVIEWED AND IMPROVEMENTS BEING MADE. IT IS EXPECTED THAT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, PAKISTAN WOULD BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE COMPLETE ELIMINATION OF LICENSED CULTIVATION. EFFORTS ARE ALSO BEING MADE TO CURB CULTIVATION OF OPIUM POPPY IN THE TRIBAL AND MERGED AREAS WHERE CULTIVATION IS NOT LICENSED AND CONSTITUTES THE MAIN LIVELIHOOD OF MANY FARMERS. ULTIMATELY, FARMERS WOULD HAVE TO BE ENCOURAGED TO SUBSTITUTE POPPY CULTIVATION BY OTHER PROFITABLE CROPS.

(6) NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAMME IS BEING CONSTANTLY REVIEWED WITH THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN PAKISTAN. IN A RECENT MEETING, THERE WAS A JOINT REVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE FIELD INVESTIGATION UNITS, UTILIZATION OF EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY U.S. GOVERNMENT, STATUS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AND POPPY CULTIVATION LICENSING PLAN. THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN IS, THEREFORE, SINGLEMINDEDLY COMMITTED TO THE COMPLETE ELIMINATION OF UNLAWFUL TRAFFIC AND EXPORT OF NARCOTICS. END QUOTE

2. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE MISSION REVIEW OF AND COMMENTS REGARDING AIDE-MEMOIRE. KISSINGER

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